

## **CERTIFIED MAIL**

January 25, 2012

## Subject: Notice of California Dungeness Crab Trap Limit and Tag Allocation

On September 26, 2011, Governor Brown signed Senate Bill 369. The bill requires the Director of the Department of Fish and Game to adopt a program by March 31, 2013, limiting the number of Dungeness crab traps for all California Dungeness crab permit holders. The program will establish crab trap allocations for California Dungeness Crab Vessel Permitholders. Trap allocations will be based on California landings of Dungeness crab made with trap gear from November 15, 2003 through July 15, 2008. The tiers will be as follows:

Tier	Maximum Trap Allocation	Permits	Criteria
1	500	55	Ranked by highest landings
2	450	55	Ranked by next highest landings to those in tier 1
3	400	55	Ranked by next highest landings to those in tier 2
4	350	55	Ranked by next highest landings to those in tier 3
5	300	55	Ranked by next highest landings to those in tier 4
6	250	*	*
7	175	**	**

<sup>\*</sup>Ranked by the next highest landings to those in tier 5 and Dungeness crab landings of at least 5,000 pounds.

<sup>\*\*</sup>Dungeness crab landings of less than 5,000 pounds, or a Dungeness Crab Vessel Permit was purchased on or after July 15, 2008, from a permitholder whose California Dungeness crab landings were less than 5,000 pounds. Tags in this tier shall not be transferable for the first two years of the program. (Fish and Game Code Section 8276.5(a)(G))

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The program is required to be adopted March 31, 2013. In addition to the annual fees for a Commercial Fishing License, Commercial Boat Registration, and Dungeness Crab Vessel Permit, you will be required to pay a biennial fee for each trap tag issued and a biennial Crab Trap Limit Permit.

Included with this notice is Verification of California Dungeness Crab Landings. This notice was generated based on California landing receipts on file with the Department. Please review, sign, and return to the Department at the letterhead address by April 30, 2012. The verified landings history will be used to assign each eligible permittee to one of the seven tiers.

For more information, please refer to the Frequently Asked Questions enclosed.

If you have any questions or require further assistance, please contact Ms. Ruth Flores, of my staff, at the letterhead address, by telephone at (916) 928-7470, or e-mail Rflores@dfg.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

James Fong, Chief

License and Revenue Branch

Enclosure

cc: Ms. Ruth Flores

Department of Fish and Game

Sacramento, CA